

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 710123



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 23 January 1971

NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.

For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

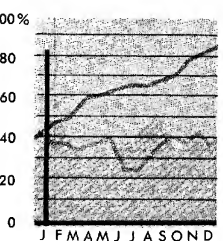
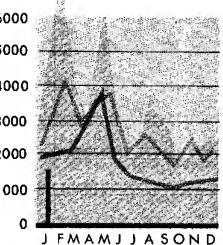
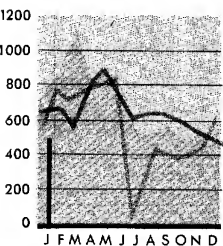
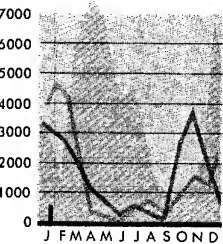
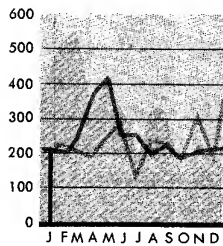
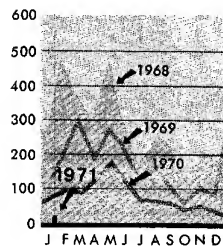
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

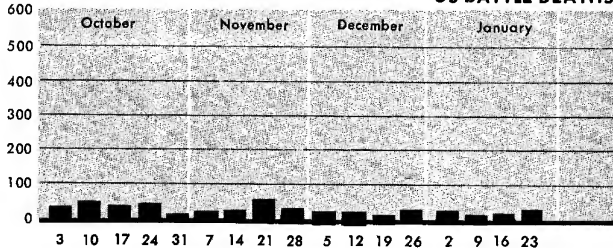
Weekly average for each month

OCTOBER 1970 - JANUARY 1971

Weekly data as reported

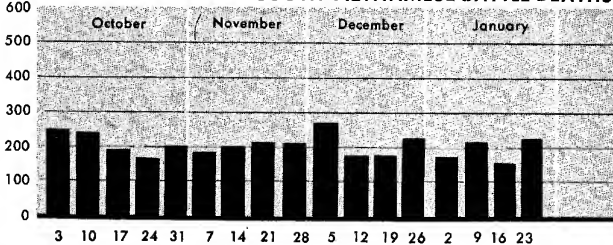


US BATTLE DEATHS



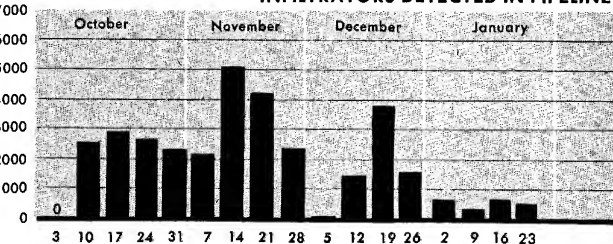
rose to 49 from the 37 of last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



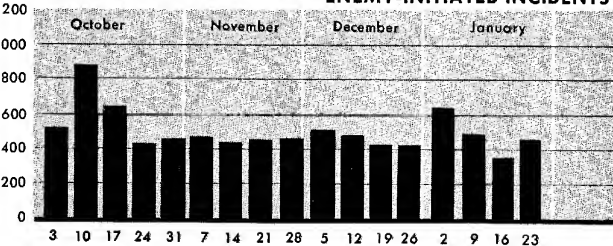
increased to 232 from last week's 4 month low of 163. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



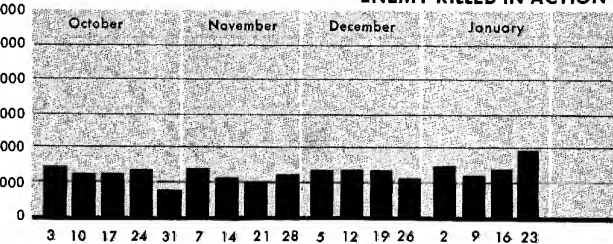
continue at a low level with only one battalion-size group of 535 detected during the week. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970, including "gap groups," is now an estimated 39,800 - 42,200.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



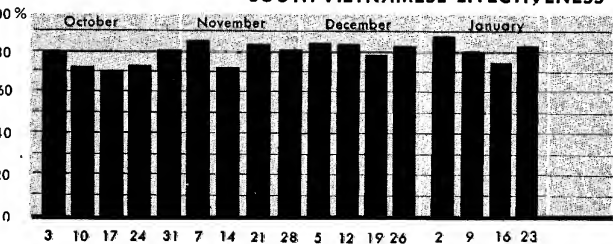
rose to 432 from the 352 of last week.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



climbed from last week's 1361 to 1998 -- the highest total since last July. A large number of these can be attributed to ARVN operations in Cambodia.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces increased to 83% from last week's 75%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity in South Vietnam remained at the comparatively low level which has prevailed for the past several weeks and the present disposition of Communist main force units makes it appear unlikely that any large-scale offensive action is planned for the near future. The Communists will probably attempt to mount a flurry of attacks by fire and harassing raids during or just after the Tet period (which ends on 28 January) and might try a headline-grabbing assault against a major base (e.g., Long Binh or Bien Hoa) or city (e.g., Saigon) with rockets or expendable terrorist/sapper units.

The combined sapper/artillery attack against Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport caused heavy materiel losses to the Cambodian Air Force and some South Vietnamese air elements present. Some 50 aircraft were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. Pochentong came under a light mortar and rocket attack again on 24 January, and intermittent terrorist activity is reported from Phnom Penh. Despite efforts being made to strengthen the capital's defenses, the Communists retain the ability to strike harassing blows at their own initiative and are not likely to lose this ability for some time. A large-scale assault on Phnom Penh, however, seems unlikely at this writing. The joint ARVN/FANK operation to clear Route 4 was completed on 23 January and limited traffic may start traveling the road on 25 January. Cambodian forces continue their clearing operations along an 18-mile stretch of the Mekong's northwest bank from Phnom Penh to Neak Luong. Three recent convoys from South Vietnam have traversed the Mekong to Phnom Penh without serious incident since the establishment of increased security measures along the river.

25X1C

The Lao commander of Operation SILVER BUCKLE forces now interdicting the enemy's Route 925 south of Muong Nong in the southern Panhandle expects the gradually increasing small-scale enemy reaction encountered so far to develop into a more determined enemy effort to rout the irregular units.

25X1C

Enemy Infiltration

During the week, no new infiltration starts were detected in North Vietnam. One new battalion-sized group, with a strength of 535, was detected in the Ban Bac area of south Laos. The acceptance of eight "gap groups" with an assigned combined strength of some 4,500 brings the total infiltrators since 1 October 1970 to an estimated 39,800 - 42,200. The enemy continues, undiminished, his "crash program" of moving supplies in the Laos Panhandle.

South Vietnam Developments

The meetings in Saigon last week between President Thieu and Prime Minister Lon Nol went well and should help improve relations between the two governments. The South Vietnamese apparently agreed to continue training FANK battalions in South Vietnam and will also assist in training non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in Cambodia. Joint investigation teams will be set up on an ad hoc basis to handle future incidents of misbehavior by ARVN troops. Five previously initialed agreements covering navigation, traffic, postal service, border controls, and tourism were signed. The controversial subjects of payment for ARVN operations in Cambodia and Cambodian claims for a share of the common assets of the former Associated French Indochina States, which Thieu had authorized be mutually cancelled, were held over for future discussion.

The South Koreans have made tentative plans to withdraw all of their 48,000 combat forces from South Vietnam by the end of 1972, according to a well-placed source. The withdrawals will, however, be subject to close consultations with the US and the GVN. President Park's recent announcement that the ROK is studying the question of a phased withdrawal may have been an effort to undercut similar proposals made by the opposition, which hoped to make this an issue in the Korean presidential election which will take place in the spring of 1971.

~~Top Secret~~